

interoffice
MEMORANDUM

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To: File by Addresses

From: Randy Lyman, Pretreatment Coordinator

Subject: Gasoline? in Sewer Complaint

Date: Thursday, December 30, 1999

Re: *630 W. Kearney-(874-8140)-Greene County Library Branch*

Between 4:30-5:00 p.m. the Service Center contacted me regarding a complaint that gasoline odors were in the sanitary sewer at 630 W. Kearney, the library. They said the Fire Department was on the scene and had explosive readings in the city sewer and were flushing the sewer and wanted them to flush the sewer with the sewer maintenance flusher. The service center said they had only one person at work and would have to call someone in to help. I told the man from the Service Center that if the Fire Department was getting explosive readings in the city sewer that I would not want them using the sewer flusher for fear of being a source of ignition, causing an explosion. The Service Center man agreed and I told him that if I needed them I would let them know.

Just after 5:00 p.m. I checked vehicle # 4126 for the necessary equipment and left for the complaint address. I arrived in about 10 minutes and went into the library immediately. The doors to the outside of the building were propped open for ventilation. I smelled nothing as I walked through the library to the reference desk where I met Carol Ellis of the staff. Ms. Ellis said she came on duty at 1:00 p.m. and was then told about the problem. The staff that went to work at 8:30 a.m. had smelled the "gas" odor when they arrived for work. They called City Utilities around 9:15-9:30 and C.U. had been there shortly thereafter. C.U. had found a small leak on a natural gas fitting, had red tagged the furnace, and left them a completed form describing the deficiency. The deficiency was fixed shortly thereafter and the red tag was discontinued apparently. C.U. had told the staff that the natural gas leak was not related to the odor problem. When asked to describe the odor, Carol Ellis said she did not smell it when she

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came in at 1:00 p.m. Someone had told her that when the Fire Department was there it was described as a diesel fuel odor coming from the convenience store/fuel station to the west at 650 W. Kearney, owned by Grace Energy out of Carthage, Mo. The Fire Department apparently was called and arrived around 3:00-3:30 p.m. and told the library that they were detecting explosive conditions in the sewer and smelled diesel odors coming from the convenience store property. I asked Ms. Ellis if the Fire Department checked for untrapped drains or dry-trapped drains; she said they did not do anything like that. I checked with the Combustible Gas Indicator (CGI) and got zero readings at all floor drains and at the base of all stools in the restrooms. I smelled nothing resembling petroleum odors anywhere in the building. I proceeded outside to take CGI reading in the city sewer. Bob Corson arrived on the scene; he had been called by David Duffield on his way home via his City cell phone. We checked manholes #75 & #76 on map M-18 NE and got 0% LEL and no observable odor other than normal sewer odor. We went back into the library and talked with Carol Ellis again and told her that we found nothing in the city sewer. We gave Ms. Ellis our business cards and asked that she call if they smelled anything on Friday; they were to be closed Saturday and Sunday. Bob Corson then left the scene. I poured water down each floor drain and ran water in all plumbing fixtures throughout the building. There was one study room that used to be a restroom that could have a floor drain that was not sealed when their addition and remodel was done 4-5 years ago. It is now carpeted and a floor drain is not noticeable through the carpet.

I went to the convenience store at 650 W. Kearney and informed the staff of the problem and asked that they make the owners aware and requested that they check for any problems that could result in a release related to the problem at the library. I asked them if the Fire Department had contacted them and checked beneath their dispensers and they had no knowledge of it. I checked at the Wade's Automotive at 658 W. Kearney (actually straight behind the convenience store) and they were closed, of course. I planned to contact them on Friday morning if they were open. Vehicle #4126 would not start due to a dead battery. The four-way-flashers had been on for a little over an hour; I guess since this vehicle had not been driven all week long, there was not enough charging of the battery to sustain for any longer. I called the Service Center for a jump-start and they came in about an hour and got me going. I then called the fire dispatcher to see which station responded to the call and they indicated that #2 on W. Commercial initially responded, but the haz-mat team from Patterson St. station had also been asked to respond. I went to #2 station and talked with the fire crew. They said they smelled diesel smell coming from next door. I told them I had been told that explosive readings had been detected in the city sewer manhole just west of the library in the middle of Concord St. (Manhole # 76) but that we measured 0% LEL. They said they weren't sure the fire department's instruments are accurate or calibrated. They indicated they did not flush the sewer with water. They called Barry Rowell, Battalion Chief on duty and I talked with him. Mr. Rowell indicated the haz-mat team checked

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the manhole (#76) with their Aims® "tool" and it indicated an explosive atmosphere in the city sewer. They apparently then left the scene and attempted to contact the sewer department to handle the problem.

Friday the 31st of December, 1999- I arrived back at the library about 10:00 a.m. and checked the sewer in manholes again. A 0% LEL was again determined, no unusual odors detected, and sampling of the sewer flow indicated no visible petroleum sheen or anything. I then went into the library and talked to Mike Dodson and Carol Ellis. They had not noticed any odors when they arrived for work before 8:30 a.m. earlier that morning. I explained to Mr. Dodson about having maintenance occasionally putting water and mineral oil in the floor drains to keep the traps working properly. He asked that I call Bill Brazeal at 874-8120 and inform him of the above information. I checked with the daytime staff at the convenience store to see if they had checked with the owner and the clerk had no knowledge of the problem. He indicated he would call the owner and pass along the information and our requests. I gave them a card with our phone number to call us with any information they could determine to see if a problem existed with any of their piping or tanks etc. I then talked with Mr. Don Williams of Wade's automotive and he said they do not dump anything down their drains; in fact, their floors are very clean and he apparently takes pride in that they do good 'house keeping' in their garage. Mr. Williams said all of the fueling equipment is off his property and all on Grace's property.

Wednesday, January 5, 2000 (4:40 p.m.)- I have not heard anything from GRACE ENERGY CORP, 650 W KEARNEY, 65803, DBA FASTRIP #27, P O BOX 514, CARTHAGE, MO 64836. 417 358-7300. I will call them tomorrow.

January 6, 2000 (9:39am)- I called the local store and the clerk said he had talked to a 'Jim' with maintenance at Grace and he indicated they would schedule some testing of some type. The clerk has not heard anything since then. I told him I would call the home office at Carthage, Mo.

January 6, 2000 (9:54am)-I called Grace Energy and left a voice message for a Jim French asking for an update on anything they may have done to check for a release from their fueling systems.

January 6, 2000 (10:06am)- I called Bill Brazeal with the library system and left him a message that Mike Dodson had wanted me to explain what we had done last week at their facility.

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630 W. Kearney

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874-8120

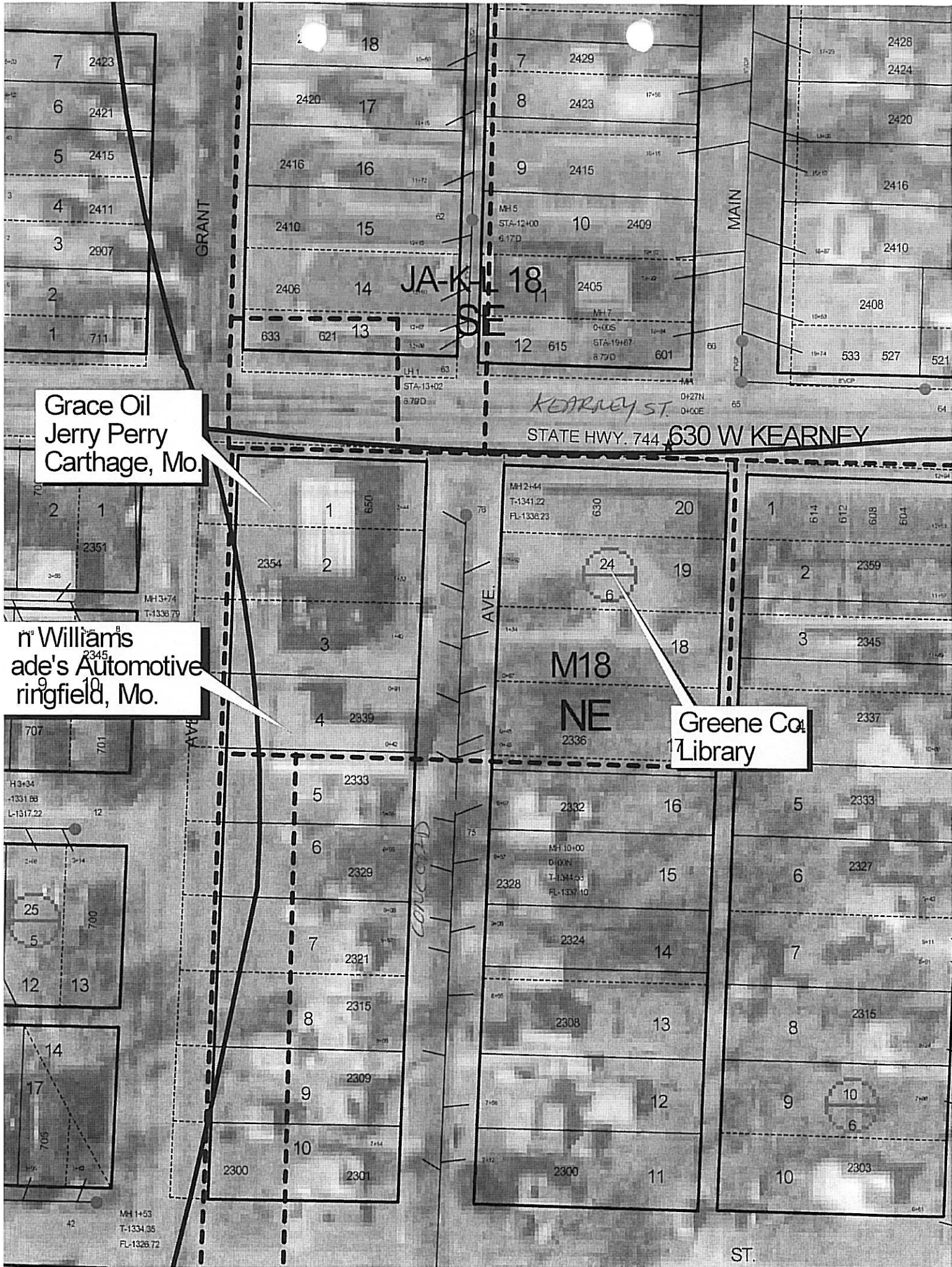
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Tires - Batteries - Wheel Alignment - Tune Up
State Inspection - Lubrication

Wade's Automotive

Phone 865-8124



Grace Oil
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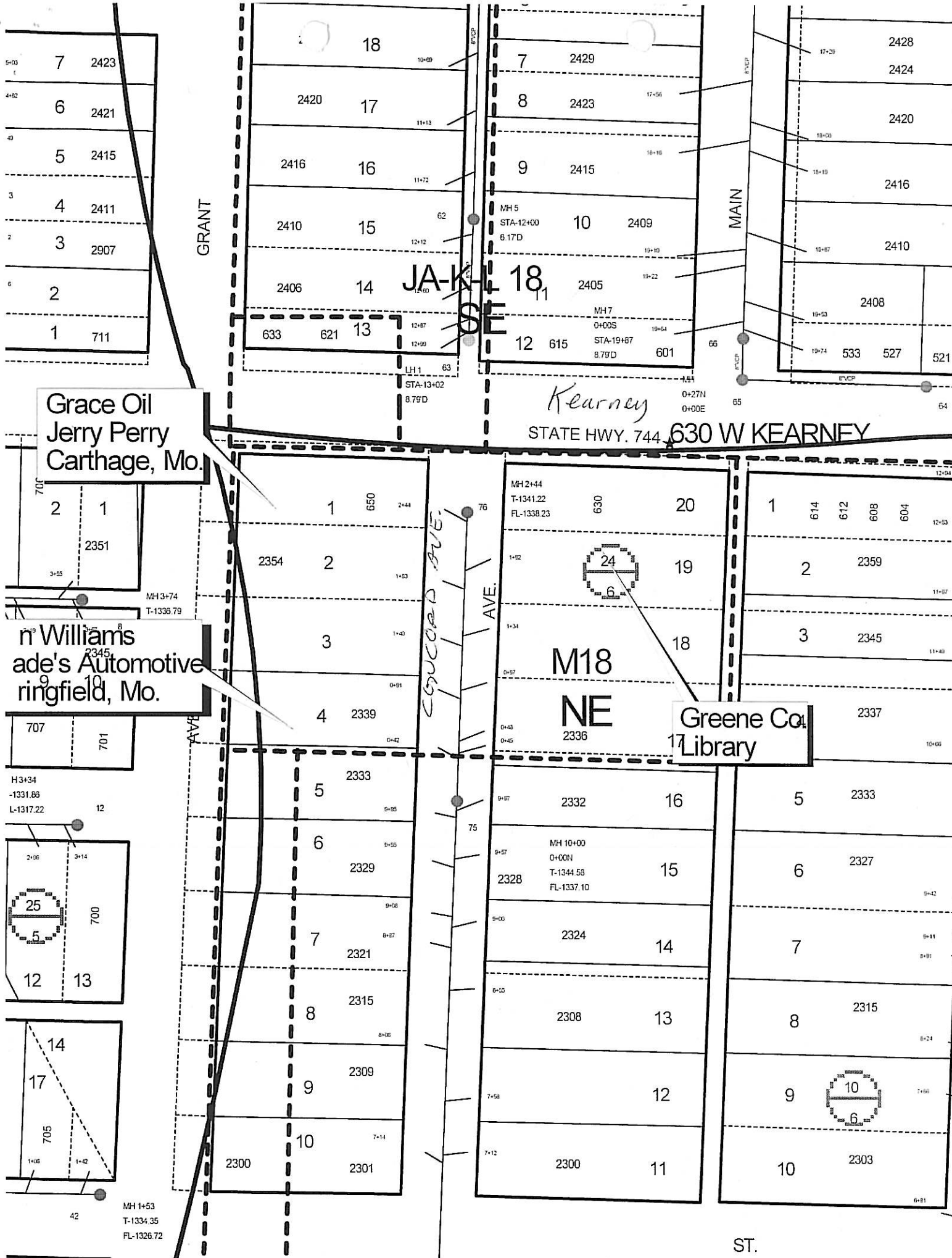
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